

Proposed Kentucky Academic Standards in Social Studies

Key Points

- New social studies standards are mandated by Kentucky Senate Bill 1 (2009). The proposed social studies standards conform to the requirements outlined in the legislation.
- Nearly 45 Kentucky school districts, from every geographical region of the state, were represented in the social standards development process.
- Two cohorts of approximately 40 members each, including 55 Kentucky teachers with more than 550 years of combined experience developed the vision for and wrote the proposed social studies standards informed by the [C3 Framework](#), [How Students Learn: History in the Classroom](#), and other publications including the [Global Competence Matrix](#) and [P21 Skills](#).
- Kentucky teachers also served on a state advisory team and on the Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction Collaborative (SSACI), a collaborative of 20 state education agencies and 15 key national stakeholder groups that would frame the vision for social studies standards to adequately prepare K-12 students for civic engagement and college/career-readiness in the 21st century.
- A total of 15 main standards at each grade level are arranged around four key concepts: civic mindedness, historical thinking, geographic reasoning and economic decision-making.
- The standards focus on deeper learning and inquiry, not just the memorization of - facts.
- The proposed standards encourage students to make connections to the world around them and apply their knowledge and skills.
- More than 600 Kentucky teachers have provided feedback on the draft standards.
- The Kentucky Board of Education reviewed draft social studies standards at its October meeting; a second reading has been delayed in order to gain more feedback from teachers and the public on the proposed standards and to work with teacher and university faculty to develop more details/content specifics.
- Public input is being sought on the proposed standards from November 3 through December 5 an online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYSSpublic>
- Because the Kentucky Department of Education anticipates a large response, Kentucky Board of Education action will be delayed until after the December meeting so that feedback and comments can be reviewed and any needed revisions made before bringing forward final sets of proposed standards to the board for action.
- Once approved, the social studies standards will be rolled out through regional Leadership Networks, the same model used with English/language arts, mathematics and science standards. The networks, made up of teacher leaders, will work with the standards to understand their intent, translate them into practice and develop curriculum models and model courses.
- Tentatively, pending approval, the new social studies standards would be taught for the first time in the 2015-16 school year.